

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

## EXECUTIVE SESSION

## EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 413.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Elizabeth Prelogar, of Idaho, to be Solicitor General of the United States.

## CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

## CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 413, Elizabeth Prelogar, of Idaho, to be Solicitor General of the United States.

Charles E. Schumer, Patty Murray, Sheldon Whitehouse, Ben Ray Lujan, Martin Heinrich, Cory A. Booker, Jack Reed, Richard J. Durbin, Mazie Hirono, Christopher A. Coons, Richard Blumenthal, Jacky Rosen, Kirsten E. Gillibrand, Gary C. Peters, Chris Van Hollen, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Michael F. Bennet.

## LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

## EXECUTIVE SESSION

## EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 471.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Beth Robinson, of Vermont, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Second Circuit.

## CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

## CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 471, Beth Robinson, of Vermont, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Second Circuit.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Mazie K. Hirono, Jeff Merkley, Tammy Duckworth, Sheldon Whitehouse, Brian Schatz, Patrick J. Leahy, Alex Padilla, Jack Reed, Chris Van Hollen, Christopher Murphy, Jacky Rosen, Edward J. Markey, Martin Heinrich, Christopher A. Coons.

## LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

## EXECUTIVE SESSION

## EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 363.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Toby J. Heytens, of Virginia, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Fourth Circuit.

## CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

## CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 363, Toby J. Heytens, of Virginia, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Fourth Circuit.

Charles E. Schumer, Ben Ray Lujan, Richard J. Durbin, Christopher A. Coons, Elizabeth Warren, John Hickenlooper, Jacky Rosen, Brian Schatz, Tammy Baldwin, Patrick J. Leahy, Kirsten E. Gillibrand, Richard Blumenthal, Benjamin L. Cardin, Catherine Cortez Masto, Cory A. Booker, Raphael Warnock, Alex Padilla.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum calls for the cloture motions filed today, October 25, be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

## LEGISLATIVE SESSION

## MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session and be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

## NICARAGUA

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, it has now been more than 4 months since Daniel Ortega's police arrested and subsequently disappeared political opposition leaders Felix Maradiaga and Juan Sebastian Chamorro in Nicaragua. On June 8, police stopped Maradiaga's vehicle, forcibly removed him, and took him away. Later that day, over 40 police officers forced their way into Chamorro's home and arrested him as well. For nearly 3 months, they were held in undisclosed locations, without access to their lawyers, doctors, or families and without being charged with any crime. They were reportedly kept in solitary confinement, subjected to frequent interrogations, deprived of sleep, and they have each lost 20 to 25 pounds.

In August, they were indicted for operating an international conspiracy to funnel foreign resources "to provide logistical support and create favorable conditions to harm the supreme interests of the nation." These charges, which are blatantly political, were brought before an unnamed judge in a secret hearing in which their lawyers were not permitted to be present. This is what is called "justice" in Nicaragua today. Nothing more than a sham process intended to silence Daniel Ortega's political opposition, and it is yet another example of the flagrant repression and abuses of human rights that have become a trademark of his government.

This summer alone, more than 30 other opposition leaders were subjected to similar abuses, and the government is reportedly currently unlawfully detaining more than 150 political prisoners, including former Ambassador to the United States Arturo Cruz who is known to many of us. He was kept in solitary confinement for approximately 80 days, has reportedly lost 40 pounds, and is even denied access to reading material so he has almost no way of learning about current events outside the prison walls.

There is only one explanation for such blatant injustices and cruelty inflicted on individuals who have done nothing that would remotely amount to a crime under international law or in most countries of the world, and that is that Daniel Ortega is afraid. He knows that if he allows a free and fair election, he and his wife Rosario Murillo, the Vice President, would almost certainly lose.

The sad reality is that it did not have to be this way. Ortega could have chosen a different path, and won the support of the Nicaraguan people by trusting them and treating them with respect, and allowing those with different views to speak freely. Instead, he chose repression and has held onto power through force and by blaming everyone but himself for Nicaragua's chronic under-development. On November 7, with the opposition silenced and hidden away, he and his wife will likely be victorious in another sham election, a farce that will fool nobody.

I join those in condemning the repressive tactics of the Ortega government and in calling for the immediate and unconditional release of Felix Maradiaga, Juan Sebastian Chamorro, Arturo Cruz, and the many other political prisoners falsely accused or imprisoned without charge. I urge the Nicaraguan Government to end the repression of dissidents, the shootings of peaceful protestors, and the crackdown on press freedom and voting rights.

It is no secret that the United States and Nicaragua have had a difficult history. The United States was the primary benefactor of the dictatorial Somoza family, which ruled the country for more than four decades, enriching themselves and their cronies, and brutalizing their opponents. Daniel Ortega had the opportunity to be different, but to many Nicaraguans and international observers, he and his wife are even worse.

The Biden administration has already responded to this summer's arrests by imposing sanctions on four members of the Ortega government and has denied access to visas for 169 Nicaraguans in response to the political crackdown. The U.S. actions encouraged the EU and Canada to also impose targeted sanctions on Nicaraguans complicit in politically motivated crimes.

I commend the Biden administration, the EU, and the Canadian Governments for standing up for the rule of law and the rights of the people of Nicaragua. I urge the White House to investigate the assets and holdings of the Nicaraguan armed forces in the U.S. and to consider appropriate actions to hold its leadership accountable for their role in the gross violations of human rights in that country. I encourage President Biden to use every diplomatic tool and every form of targeted sanctions to obtain the release of Daniel Ortega's prisoners and to create the conditions for a genuinely free, fair, and transparent election in Nicaragua.

#### TRIBUTE TO JOSH BAKER

Mr. OSSOFF. Madam President, I rise to commend Josh Baker, a British national, on behalf of the U.S. Senate, for his vital and lifesaving contributions to the allied evacuation of Afghanistan.

Mr. Baker, of course, is internationally acclaimed for his courageous and

award-winning work documenting armed conflict and war crimes worldwide. His sacrifices in the production of vital, world-class journalism included the sacrifice of his own body, when his spine was fractured by a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device detonated by a suicide bomber in Iraq while Baker was on assignment for PBS.

Mr. Baker's achievements include the production of landmark reports exposing ISIS war crimes against Yazidi women and girls, investigations of international terrorism, and vital reporting on refugee crises. His work has documented for the historical record and for the education of the global public the brutality and indignity imposed on innocent human beings by armed conflict.

When, on August 15, 2021, the Afghan capital of Kabul fell to Taliban forces, hundreds of thousands of foreign nationals and Afghan allies were trapped in harm's way. Mr. Baker sprung into action. In August and September of this year, Mr. Baker remotely coordinated and supported multiple lifesaving extractions of vulnerable civilians from Afghanistan.

He applied his deep experience of complex operations in hostile environments and the trust built over years of communication with journalists, sources, and contributors in the military, intelligence, and political domains, in civil society and at humanitarian agencies, to remotely coordinate and support multiple lifesaving extractions of vulnerable civilians from Afghanistan.

Mr. Baker's contributions to these historic evacuation efforts included the coordination of a lifesaving mission to rescue Afghan orphans and the coordination of logistics necessary for the safe evacuation of hundreds of Afghan women and girls.

And so let the U.S. Senate commend Josh Baker for his vital and lifesaving contributions to the allied evacuation of Afghanistan.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### REMEMBERING RUDOLFO ANAYA

• Mr. HEINRICH. Madam President, Rudolfo Anaya's writing captured the beauty of New Mexico's landscapes and the strength and resilience of our people. It is a testament to the power of his literary work that so many New Mexicans recognize themselves and their families in the characters of his award-winning novels. Known to many as the godfather of Chicano literature, Mr. Anaya taught all of us to cherish the rich traditions, cultural heritage, and deep-rooted communities in our State.

Mr. Anaya was born and raised in Pastura and Santa Rosa, small communities in Guadalupe County. His childhood experiences on the desert flatlands of the Llano Estacado later inspired much of his best work. After

his family moved to the historic Babelas neighborhood of Albuquerque, Mr. Anaya attended Albuquerque High School and the University of New Mexico. Through many decades as a lifetime educator, Mr. Anaya taught and mentored students in Albuquerque Public Schools and at the University of New Mexico.

In 1972, Mr. Anaya published his coming-of-age novel, "Bless Me, Ultima," about a young boy's search for spirituality and his sense of place. The novel broke new ground by centering the unique experiences, complex cultural identities, and deep-rootedness of Hispanic and Chicano New Mexicans. "Bless Me, Ultima" has stirred the hearts of countless readers over the years and inspired adaptations for theater, a feature film, and an opera. On a personal note, reading "Bless Me, Ultima," was also an important part of the experiences and events that led my wife, Julie, and I to settle and raise our family in New Mexico.

Over the course of his prolific literary career, Mr. Anaya wrote a wide range of novels, stories, nonfiction essays, and poetry that captured the spirit and culture of New Mexico. In 2002, he was awarded the National Medal for the Arts by President George W. Bush and the National Endowment for the Arts. He was awarded the National Humanities Medal by President Barack Obama and the National Endowment for the Humanities in 2016.

Rudolfo Anaya leaves behind a legacy that will never be forgotten. As we remember his incredible life, my thoughts are with his family, the countless people he mentored and taught, and everyone who experienced the power of reading his work. I am certain I join so many others in our State in honoring and lifting up the life of this quintessential New Mexican. ●

#### 350TH ANNIVERSARY OF SUFFIELD, CONNECTICUT

• Mr. MURPHY. Madam President, I rise today to commemorate the 350th anniversary of the town of Suffield, CT. The celebration of this historic milestone, actually achieved last year in the height of the pandemic, is just as deserved as it is overdue.

How lucky Connecticut is to have won Suffield away from neighboring Massachusetts in 1749. With roots dating back to the 1600s, Suffield's early days were defined by the bounty of its fertile farmland along the western banks of the Connecticut River. Soon, beautiful Colonial and Victorian-era homes were built along the town's now iconic Main Street. Industry and commerce began to flourish, and by the 1900s, Suffield was a model Connecticut town, able to marry together agrarian humility and forward-looking modernity into one common identity.

Today, Suffield still boasts bucolic farms, breathtaking views from the Metacomet Ridge, and historic architecture. But a thriving small business